

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions,
and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for guiding sheets to a
sheet processing machine, which comprises the step of:

generating an overlapping stream of sheets guided over a table
in a sheet transport direction;

reducing an adhesion force between two sheets following one
another in the overlapping stream by lifting a sheet trailing
edge of a first sheet with a blown air jet from a first nozzle
aimed in the sheet transport direction blown out substantially
tangentially over the first sheet; and

lifting the sheet trailing edge of the first sheet by blowing
under the sheet from behind the sheet with a second nozzle
spaced apart from the first nozzle in the transport direction.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises aligning the first sheet in [[a]] the sheet transport direction before the sheet trailing edge of the first sheet is lifted.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 3, which further comprises aligning the first sheet laterally at a same time as the sheet trailing edge of the first sheet is lifted.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 3, which further comprises aligning the first sheet laterally after the sheet trailing edge of the first sheet has been lifted.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An apparatus for guiding sheets to a sheet processing machine, the apparatus comprising:

a lifting device for reducing an adhesion force between two sheets following one another in an overlapping stream by lifting a sheet trailing edge of a first sheet, said lifting device disposed above the first sheet of the overlapping stream, said lifting device including at least one nozzle with an air jet aimed in a sheet transport direction substantially tangentially over the first sheet of the overlapping stream, and said lifting device having a free jet nozzle in addition to said nozzle, said free jet nozzle being disposed upstream

of said at least one nozzle in the sheet transport direction,
and said free jet nozzle being aimed at the overlapping sheet
stream obliquely from above in the sheet transport direction.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus according to claim 6,
further comprising a front edge alignment device, said lifting
device being disposed at a distance of a sheet length to be
processed from said front edge alignment device.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim
7, wherein said lifting device can be adjusted in the sheet
transport direction to a sheet format to be processed.

Claims 9-11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (previously presented): The apparatus according to
claim 6, wherein said nozzle is formed as a blowing/suction
nozzle and can be acted on with blown air.

Claim 13 (original): The apparatus according to claim 12,
wherein said nozzle is formed as a suction gripper and can be
acted on with a vacuum.

Claim 14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim [[14]] 6, wherein at least one of said nozzle and said free jet nozzle can be activated at a cycle rate of the sheet processing machine.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A printing press, comprising:

a sheet stack feeder;

a first lifting apparatus for forming an overlapping stream and disposed adjacent said sheet stack feeder; and

a second lifting apparatus disposed above a first sheet of the overlapping stream and downstream of said first lifting apparatus in a sheet transport direction, said second lifting apparatus being an air jet aimed in [[a]] the sheet transport direction substantially tangentially over the first sheet of the overlapping stream, said second lifting apparatus having at least one nozzle, and said second lifting apparatus having a free jet nozzle in addition to said nozzle, said free jet nozzle being aimed at the overlapping sheet stream obliquely from above in the sheet transport direction.

A-3930 - Application No. 10/799,098
Response to Office action September 18, 2008
Response submitted November 14, 2008

Claim 17 (previously presented): The apparatus according to
claim 6, wherein said nozzle and said free jet nozzle are
spaced apart from each other in the sheet transport direction.